

# 4-H: Responding to Your Kids' Needs

For nearly 100 years, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) 4-H youth development program has listened to parents and kids. We've listened and responded with programs that teach practical skills—from raising animals to creating Web sites—and have made sure that all 4-H programming teaches responsibility, respect, self-confidence and so much more.

Michigan's youth will be on the front lines of finding and creating new products from agriculture, using technology in whole new ways and becoming tomorrow's business owners, and 4-H will be there to guide them through these changes—with your help.

Starting with the 2006-7 4-H program year (September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007), MSUE is asking you to pay a \$10 annual participation fee to help 4-H continue providing the strong youth development programming you've come to expect and rely on.

- Ten dollars will be collected once a-year from each youth participant. Clubs and counties will decide how and when the participation fee will be collected. Some options include:
  - o Collecting the fee from individuals at the time of club enrollment
  - o Collecting the fee from individuals at a time other than club enrollment
  - o Participating in a club-wide fund-raiser to raise money to cover fees for the entire club
  - o Finding a sponsor to cover fees for individuals, a club or an entire county
- Families with three or more children participating in 4-H will pay a family maximum of \$30 per year.
- No child will be turned away from participating in 4-H because of inability to pay the \$10 fee. You may speak with your club leader or county Extension 4-H educator if this is a concern.
- The money from the participation fee will be used exclusively to develop, purchase, implement and/or update 4-H programming. Examples could include:
  - o Purchasing or developing materials for brand new program areas, such as "e" communications or bio products
  - o Updating existing program materials to reflect the latest research, such as new animal science practices, new nutrition information (i.e. Food Pyramid) or new plant growth techniques
  - o Improving/expanding programs that build life skills in communications, citizenship, leadership and decision-making
- Half of the money will stay at the local level, to support 4-H programs right in your county. The other half will go to the state 4-H office at MSU, where 4-H's program leaders and curriculum development team can use that funding to create new program materials that will benefit clubs and youth all over the state.
- The money for the participation fee will not be used for 4-H staff member salaries.
- Go to <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/> for more information.
- Contact your child's club leader or your county Extension 4-H educator with questions or suggestions. 2006-7 is a pilot year, and your input will help shape the participant fee program for years to come.
- Get involved! Be our partner!



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